

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Objection to Drawings

This objection has been addressed by amending Figs. 1 and 3 to include a reference numeral –240– to designate the “cutter actuator,” which is shown in the original drawings, and by amending the specification to also include reference numeral 240.

That the element now designated –240– corresponds to the “cutter actuator” recited in the claims and described in the original specification is evident from lines 3-9 on page 5, which describe the cutter actuator as being integrally formed with lever 24 and includes parallel wings 241 and actuating pin 242, exactly as shown in the original drawings.

Because the amendments merely involve the addition of a reference numeral, it is respectfully submitted that they do not involve “new matter.”

2. Rejection of Claims 1-6 Under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph

This rejection has been addressed by deleting the objected to passages in claims 1 and 2. These deletions of confusing functional language have no effect on the scope of the claims, and therefore should not affect the allowability of the claims with respect to the cited prior art.

Having thus overcome each of the sole objection and rejection made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial Number 10/689,045



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Date: February 25, 2005

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAWINGS

Please amend Figs. 1 and 3 to include reference numeral 240, as indicated on the attached REPLACEMENT SHEETS.